



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE**

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110
(909) 387-4821

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GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

September 6, 2011

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 734 (DeSaulnier)** – As amended on September 2, 2011 – **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

The County of San Bernardino has reviewed SB 734 as amended, and is opposed to this bill. This bill would require local workforce investment boards to spend a certain percentage of federal Workforce Investment Act funds on workforce training programs.

The current downturn in the economy has, more than ever, increased the need for employment services to operate under the guidance of the Local Workforce Investment Board (LWIB) to fuel the current economic recovery, rapidly respond to businesses that are downsizing and service employees who are laid off. It is imperative that LWIBs have the resources to put people back to work quickly and prepare communities for future growth. SB 734 would impede our LWIB's ability to effectively deliver services that meet the unique demands of our region.

This bill usurps the LWIB's authority to set policy within their local areas. The California Workforce Investment Board, with local input, should take up these issues. Prescribing a certain threshold of funding to be applied to workforce training will not permit LWIB members to make decisions that recognize and reflect local needs.

For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino opposes SB 734. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES, Chair
Board of Supervisors